

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4 through 8, 10 through 12, and 14 through 27 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus having an image carrier, and a developing unit for forming an image by supplying a developer onto the image carrier, the apparatus comprising:

a consumption amount detecting unit configured to detect an amount of consumed developer in a case where an amount of image formation using ~~usage of~~ the developing unit has reached a predetermined amount; [[and]]

a control unit configured ~~configure~~ to transfer an image formed on the image carrier onto a transfer material, or to perform an adjustment operation of adhering the developer to the image carrier so as to consume the developer without transferring an image on the transfer material; and ~~carrier,~~

a setting unit configured to set an amount of the developer consumed in the adjustment operation on the basis of the amount of consumed developer detected by said consumption amount detecting unit,

wherein said control unit performs the adjustment operation based on the amount of the developer set by said setting unit. ~~changes an amount of the developer to be adhered to the image carrier in accordance with the amount of the consumed developer detected by said consumption amount detecting means.~~

2. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting control unit sets ~~changes~~ the amount of the developer consumed in the adjustment operation ~~to be adhered to the image carrier~~ on the basis of the amount of the consumed developer detected by said consumption amount detecting unit ~~means~~ and a predetermined threshold value.

3. **(Original)** The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined threshold value corresponds to a characteristic of the developer.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting control unit sets ~~changes~~ the amount of the developer consumed in the adjustment operation ~~to be adhered to the image carrier~~ in accordance with an environment in which ~~[[of]] the developing unit operates.~~ unit.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting control unit sets ~~changes~~ the amount of the developer consumed in the adjustment operation ~~to be adhered to the image carrier~~ in accordance with conditions in which the developing unit operates.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting control unit sets the amount of the developer consumed in the adjustment operation with respect to ~~changes a driving time of the developing unit in accordance with~~ a color of the developer.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus having an image carrier, and a developing unit for forming an image by supplying a developer onto the image carrier, the apparatus comprising:

a consumption amount detecting unit configured to detect an amount of consumed developer in a case where an amount of ~~image formation using usage~~ of the developing unit has reached a predetermined amount; [[and]]

a control unit configured to ~~transfer an image formed on the image carrier onto a transfer material, or to perform an adjustment operation of driving the developing unit without supplying the developer to the image carrier; and drive the developing unit,~~

a setting unit configured to set a driving time period of the developing unit in the adjustment operation on the basis of the amount of consumed developer detected by said consumption amount detecting unit.

wherein said control unit performs the adjustment operation based on the driving time period of the developing unit set by said setting unit. ~~changes a driving time of the developing unit in accordance with the amount of the consumed developer detected by said consumption amount detecting unit.~~

8. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said setting control unit ~~sets~~ changes the driving time period of the developing unit in the adjustment operation on the basis of the amount of the consumed developer detected by said consumption amount detecting unit and a predetermined threshold value.

9. **(Original)** The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the predetermined threshold value corresponds to a characteristic of the developer.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said ~~setting control~~ unit ~~sets~~ ~~changes~~ the driving time period of the developing unit in accordance with an environment in which ~~[[of]]~~ the developing unit operates. ~~unit~~.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said ~~setting control~~ unit ~~sets~~ ~~changes~~ the driving time period of the developing unit in accordance with conditions in which the developing unit operates.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said ~~setting control~~ unit ~~sets~~ ~~changes~~ the driving time period of the developing unit in accordance with a color of the developer.

13. **(Original)** The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the developing unit comprises a developer carrier which supplies the developer onto the image carrier, and said control unit drives the developer carrier.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method of adjusting a developing unit in an image forming apparatus having an image carrier, and the developing unit for forming an image by supplying a developer onto the image carrier, the method comprising:

a consumption amount detection step of detecting an amount of consumed developer in a case where an amount of image formation using ~~usage~~ of the developing unit has reached a predetermined amount; [[and]]

a control step of transferring an image formed on the image carrier onto a transfer material, or performing an adjustment operation of adhering the developer to the image carrier so as to consume the developer without transferring an image on the transfer material; and

a setting step of setting an amount of the developer consumed in the adjustment operation on the basis of the amount of consumed developer detected in said consumption amount detecting step. ~~changing an amount of the developer to be adhered to the image carrier, in accordance with the amount of consumed developer detected in said consumption amount detection step.~~

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 14, wherein in said ~~setting step, control step further comprises a step of changing~~ the amount of the developer consumed in the adjustment operation is set ~~to be adhered to the image carrier in~~ accordance with an environment in which [[of]] the developing unit operates. ~~unit.~~

16. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 14, wherein in said ~~setting step, control step further comprises a step of changing~~ the amount of the developer consumed in the adjustment operation is set ~~to be adhered to the image carrier in~~ accordance with conditions in which the developing unit operates.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 14, wherein in said ~~setting step, control step further comprises a step of changing~~ the amount of the developer ~~consumed in the adjustment operation is set to be adhered to the image carrier in~~ accordance with a color of the developer.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method of adjusting a developing unit in an image forming apparatus having an image carrier, and the developing unit for forming an image by supplying a developer onto the image carrier, the method comprising:

a consumption amount detection step of detecting an amount of consumed developer in a case where an amount of ~~image formation using usage of~~ the developing unit has reached a predetermined amount; [[and]]

a control step of transferring an image formed on the image carrier onto a transfer material, or performing an adjustment operation of driving the developing unit without supplying the developer to the image carrier; and

a setting step of setting a driving time period of the developing unit in the adjustment operation on the basis of the amount of consumed developer detected in said consumption amount detecting step. ~~changing a driving time of the developing unit in accordance with the amount of the consumed developer detected in said consumption amount detection step.~~

19. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 18, wherein in said ~~setting step, control step further comprises a step of changing~~ the driving time period of the

developing unit is set in accordance with an environment in which [[of]] the developing unit operates. ~~unit.~~

20. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 18, wherein in said ~~setting step, control step further comprises a step of changing~~ the driving time period of the developing unit is set in accordance with conditions in which the developing unit operates.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 18, wherein in said ~~setting step, control step further comprises a step of changing~~ the driving time period of the developing unit is set in accordance with a color of the developer.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A developing unit detachable from an image forming apparatus, comprising a vessel containing a developer and a storage medium for storing information,

wherein the information is used to control an adjustment operation in which the image forming apparatus consumes the developer without transferring an image onto a transfer material. ~~storage medium having a storage area for storing information which concerns a characteristic of the developer, and by which a control unit of the image forming apparatus controls to adjust an amount of the developer in the developing unit.~~

23. **(Currently Amended)** The unit according to claim 22, wherein in the adjustment operation, ~~the control is to adhere~~ a predetermined amount of the developer is adhered onto an image carrier on the basis of an amount of consumed developer detected

by a consumption amount detecting unit in a main body of the image forming apparatus and the information stored in said storage medium, ~~concerning the characteristic of the developer.~~

24. **(Currently Amended)** A developing unit detachable from an image forming apparatus, comprising a vessel containing a developer and a storage medium for storing information,

wherein the information is used to control an adjustment operation in which the image forming apparatus drives the developing unit without supplying the developer to an image carrier. ~~The unit according to claim 22, further comprising a developer carrier for supplying the developer to an image carrier;~~

~~wherein the adjustment control is to drive said developer carrier on the basis of an amount of consumed developer detected by a consumption amount detecting unit in a main body of the image forming apparatus and the information concerning the characteristic of the developer.~~

25. **(Currently Amended)** A storage medium provided in a developing unit usable with ~~detachable from an image forming apparatus, the apparatus and provided in a~~ developing unit having a vessel containing a developer, the medium comprising:

a storage area for storing information concerning to a characteristic of the developer, wherein the information is to control an adjustment operation in which the image forming apparatus consumes the developer without transferring an image onto a

~~transfer material. and so that a control unit of the image forming apparatus performs an adjustment control of an amount of the developer in the developing unit.~~

26. **(Currently Amended)** The medium according to claim 25, wherein in the adjustment operation, control is to adhere a predetermined amount of the developer is adhered onto an image carrier on the basis of an amount of consumed developer detected by a consumption amount detecting unit in a main body of the image forming apparatus and the information concerning the characteristic of the developer, stored in said storage area.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A storage medium provided in a developing unit usable with an image forming apparatus, the developing unit having a vessel containing a developer, the medium comprising:

a storage area for storing information concerning to a characteristic of the developer, wherein the information is to control an adjustment operation in which the image forming apparatus drives the developing unit without supplying the developer to an image carrier. The medium according to claim 25, further comprising a developer carrier for supplying the developer to an image carrier,

~~wherein the adjustment control is to drive said developer carrier on the basis of an amount of consumed developer detected by a developer consumption amount detecting unit in a main body of the image forming apparatus and the information concerning the characteristic of the developer, stored in said storage area.~~